AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An absorbent structure for use in an article for absorbing blood, the absorbent structure comprising:

fibers formed into a first web, the first web having a first surface and a second surface spaced from the first surface;

blood absorbent enhancing agent within the first web, the blood absorbent enhancing agent present in a first amount adjacent the first surface and present in a second amount adjacent the second surface, the first amount being unequal to the second amount.

2. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 1, wherein the total amount of the blood absorbent enhancing agent within the web ranges from about 1% to about 40% based on the weight of the fibers.

3. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 1, wherein the blood absorbent enhancing agent is lactic acid.

4. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 1, wherein the blood absorbent enhancing agent comprises a mixture of lactic acid and sodium lactate.

5. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 1, wherein the blood absorbent enhancing agent is sodium lactate.

6. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 3, wherein the total amount of lactic acid in the web ranges from about 1% to about 40% based on the weight of the fibers.

7. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 1 further comprising a superabsorbent material.

8. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 1, wherein the fibers are cellulose fibers.

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9. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 1 further comprising a second web of fibers.

10. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 9, wherein the fibers of the second web comprise cellulose fibers.

11. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 10, wherein the second web is compressed to increase its density.

12. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 11, wherein the first web is less dense than the second web.

13. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 10, wherein the second web includes superabsorbent material.

14. (Currently amended) An absorbent structure for use in an article for absorbing blood, the absorbent structure comprising:

a first web comprising fibers that are bonded together, the first web having a first density; and

a second web comprising fibers ~~and a blood absorbent enhancing agent~~, wherein the second web has a first surface and a second surface spaced from the first surface, a blood absorbent enhancing agent present in a first amount adjacent the first surface and present in a second amount adjacent the second surface, the first amount being unequal to the second amount.

15. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 14, wherein the blood absorbent enhancing agent is lactic acid.

16. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 14, wherein the blood absorbent enhancing agent comprises a mixture of lactic acid and sodium lactate.

17. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 14, wherein the blood absorbent enhancing agent is sodium lactate.

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18. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 14, wherein the first web includes wet strength resins.

19. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 14, wherein the first web includes thermobondable fibers.

20. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 14, wherein the first web has a density ranging from about 0.03 to about 0.2 g/cm^3.

21. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 20, wherein the first web has a density ranging from about 0.03 to about 0.08 g/cm^3.

22. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 14, wherein the second web has been compressed to increase its density to a second density greater than the first density.

23. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 14, wherein the first web comprises cellulose fibers.

24. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 14, wherein the second web comprises cellulose fibers.

25. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 14, wherein the second web includes a superabsorbent material.

26. (Canceled).

27. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 21, wherein the second web has a density ranging from about 0.08 to about 0.6 g/cm^3.

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